

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE). LXXII.

NOTES ON THE GENUS KOANOPHYLLON.

R. M. King and H. Robinson  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

In the months since the circumscription of the genus Koanophyllon (King & Robinson, 1971) three points have arisen that warrant publication. These include a neotypification of the type species, a new species and further notes on one of the common central American species.

Richard Howard of Harvard University has rightly called our attention to the problem of neotypification of the type species of the genus Koanophyllon. From all indications there is no existing specimen of K. tinctoria of Arruda de Camara and the nature of the original work suggests that no herbarium specimen was ever prepared. In view of this fact we take the opportunity to select a neotype that will properly affirm the identity of the species with the later described and widely used name Eupatorium laeve DC. Among the specimens cited by de Candolle (1836) under the original description of E. laeve and recorded on the microfiche series of the de Candolle herbarium in Geneva is a collection by Lhostky from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We propose that this specimen be recognized as the neotype of Koanophyllon tinctoria and as the lectotype of Eupatorium laeve DC.

Though the genus Koanophyllon ranges from the Southwestern United States south to Argentina, the center of distribution seems to be unquestionably Guatemala and the adjacent areas. It is from a closely adjacent region in the Maya Mountains of the interior of British Honduras that the following new species has been collected.

Koanophyllon sorensenii R.M.King & H.Robinson, sp. nov.

Suffrutex 0.5 m altus. Caules et petioli minute dense fulvo-tomentosi. Folia opposita petiolata, petiolis ad 1 cm longis; lamina usque ad 10.5 cm longa 3.5 cm lata ovato-elliptica, basi acuta, margine remote crenulata, apice vix acuminata, paginis utrinque puncto-glanduliferis, inferioribus minute albo-tomentosis; nervatura pinnata; inflorescentia laxe paniculata; capitula ca 8 mm alta;

involucri squamae bi-triseriatae ca. 15 acutae exteriores extus minute dense fulvo-tomentose; flores ca. 10; corolla tubularis, lobis longe triangularibus extus glanduliferis; appendices antherarum breves profunde fisses; styli ad apicem vix clavati; achaenia pauce setifera et glandulifera; pappi setae tenues ca. 30, Grana pollinis ca. 20 $\mu$  diam. breviter spinosa.

British Honduras: along "Pine Ridge" of Chiquibul Rd. near junction of Little Vaqueros Creek, zone of pine and melastomaceous scrub, scattered oaks present also. 19 August 1971. Low shrub, 0.5 m tall, rays absent, style branches pale greenish yellow. Paul D. Sorenson 7129 (Holotype US!).

The new species has the general habit of Koanophyllon solidaginoides, K. celtidifolia and K. hondurensis but lacks the ternervate condition at the base of the leaf. The corolla lobes and style branches also differ by being narrower than usual for the genus

A special effort has been made to further analyse the rather distinctive Central American species Koanophyllon albicaulis (Schultz-Bip. ex Klatt) R.M.King & H.Robinson. A number of interesting comments have been obtained by reviewing comments on various labels. The plant ranging from western Mexico to Honduras is common in moist thickets and is known by at least two common names in British Honduras "Water wood" and "Sholte schnook (Mayan) (Old woman's walking stick)". Of more significance is a comment on a Honduras collection (Standley 53173) "Used to color green cord, cloth etc." It would seem that K. albicaulis like K. tinctoris is a dye plant. There remains a possibility the dye chemical is different though related since the comment indicates a green dye while the Brazilian dye is referred to as indigo. Perhaps chemical taxonomists will be induced to study the problem in more detail.

#### References

- Decandolle, A.P. 1836. Ordo CII. Compositae. Prodr. 5: 4-695.
- King, R.M. & H.Robinson. 1971. Studies in the Eupatorieae (Asteraceae). LXIV. Phytologia 22: 147-152.